The experience gained during the mobilization of formations has enabled the Army to reassess and revalidate its operational plans and procedures.

MIG-21 crash in Ambala and Rajasthan

152. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two MIG-21 aircrafts crashed on September 9, 2002, one at Ambala and the other in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the causes of the crash and whether they were attributale to mechanical defects;

(c) whether in view of the fact that MIG aircrafts have been named as flying coffins, Government have reviewed the desirability of continuing to fly them and use them as combat aircraft; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the review?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)The exact causes are being determined by the Courts of Inquiry.

(c) and (d)The view that the MIG-21 is a flying coffin is not correct. The aircraft is fully airworthy and reliable.

However, progressive phasing out of older variants of MIG-21 has already commenced.

Venkataswami Commission Report

153. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Venkataswami Commission probing into the so called "Tehelka" defence deal, has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the main finding thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?